

Serial No.: 09/029,579  
Filed: May 6, 1998

An Associated Power of Attorney accompanies this response.

The Applicants request that the remarks set forth herein be considered. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for targeting a double stranded nucleic [acids] acid, [characterized in that it] wherein said composition comprises an effective amount of a padlock probe oligonucleotide having two free nucleic acid end parts which [are at least partially complementary] anneal to [and capable of hybridizing with] two [at least substantially neighboring respective regions of a target] closely adjacent sequences within said double stranded nucleic acid [sequence] so that the padlock probe [can be] is capable of circularization [circularized] by joining said free end parts and [catenate] catenating with a [the] target sequence within said double stranded nucleic acid for direct inhibition [thereof] of transcription.
2. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1, [in admixture with] further comprising a suitable carrier.
3. (Amended) A composition according to claim 1, [also] further comprising a linking agent, wherein said linking agent is capable of joining said two free nucleic acid end parts.
4. (Amended) A composition according to claim 3, wherein said linking agent is a ligase enzyme.